

INGLESBY, CM

Valentines. Ilford. Es ✓

Aug. 3. 1868

My dear Sir.

According to my promise I send you a copy of my Tractate - "Was Thomas Lodge a player?" This was my first - probably, of its kind, the first - contribution to this current Annus Mirabilis. It has been a constantly recurring source of amusement to read the critiques of good-natured unsuspecting correspondents, to whom I had presented copies of this monograph, who evidently had read a few pages of it, & closed it without having discovered that it reflected on private character - I think that is the phrase in vogue. Among others of the like bearing I had a long letter from my old friend Mr. D. Hick (the Commissioner of B.R.) criticising the general question of "the Disrepute of the Drama" - but making it quite plain that he had not so much as seen the fac-simile. Of those correspondents who did discover the personal bearing & the fac-simile, some took the view that evidently Collier had used some other copy of the Memorial: Alexander Dyce allowed & was grieved at Mr. Collier's inaccuracy: but I am bound to say the majority admitted that I had proved my case & of these not a few were men<sup>men</sup> whom the Bridgewater & Dulwich faggers had failed "to generate the slightest doubt of Collier's good faith".

The suspected page of the later book of the Revels - is a most astonishing piece of cleverness. One of the reasons why I hunted you (thru Hamilton) on the matter before, was that the three entries of plays by Shakespeare not bearing the name of





"Shusberd" - presented internal evidence of genuineness. I need not trouble you with these if you are satisfied, on palaeographic grounds that the page in question is a forgery. As to the three pages in the earlier book, the marginal notes (alone) w<sup>d</sup>. have made me suspect that they were written by the same hand as the Maynwaringe forgery at Badwater House.

I am, my dear Sir,  
Yours very truly

J. M. Ingley.

P.S. kindly send me a copy of the entry in the earlier book - which Peter Cunningham omitted from his volume.

J. Daffus Hardy Esq.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is arranged in several paragraphs across the page.]*